



Hogsmill River Volunteer Restoration

The story so far

Fish require a number of different habitats to complete their life cycles including spawning grounds, refuges for young fish, habitats to hunt, shelter from predators and over-wintering areas.

Unfortunately, few of these habitats were available to fish in the Hogsmill as it has been heavily modified over the past 50 years for development.

This project focused on the 500m stretch of river in the Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve and worked with local volunteers to enhance and increase habitat diversity for fish and other wildlife.

The wetland was restored by:

- Removing 115m of railway sleepers from the river bank, renaturalising the banks for the benefit of fauna and flora
- Adding woody material to narrow the channel and create meander in the over-straight channel

- Thinning trees to increase light to the river.

How has it helped wildlife?

- New habitats for fish and other wildlife have been created within the straight channel.
- Fish now have access to shelter from predators and refuge from high flows.

How has it helped people?

- The site looks far more appealing.
- More people are engaging with the river, donating more than 300 volunteer hours.
- Volunteers have been upskilled to monitor changes in fish habitat availability.
- Partnership organisations

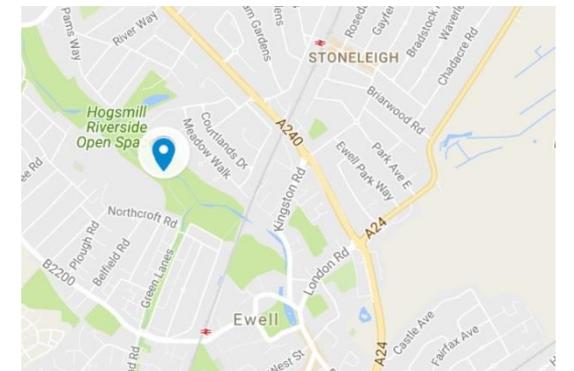
South East Rivers Trust, DEFRA (Catchment Partnership Action Fund), Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, Lower Mole Project, Environment Agency.



BEFORE - The Hogsmill is a straight featureless channel © South East Rivers Trust



AFTER - Gravels have been revealed and there are more places for fish to hide © South East Rivers Trust



Nearest Station: Ewell or Stoneleigh